



# SOUTH WALES ALLIANCE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

[www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk](http://www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk)

## SWAL NEWSLETTER - MAY 2021



### FAW - UPDATED RETURN TO PLAY INFORMATION

The Welsh Government & FAW have updated their match protocols with effect from Monday 17 May 2021, when Wales moves to Alert Level 2, which now allows up to 50 adults that can gather for organised outdoor sporting activity and 30 for indoor organised sporting activity

However there is a proviso that until further notice, spectators are generally not permitted, except for those persons who need to attend for safeguarding reasons.

Over the coming weeks nine test events will take place, all of which have been commissioned by Welsh Government, and they will inform future guidance related to the return of spectators and mass participation events including the return of tournaments.

| RETURN TO FOOTBALL ROADMAP - 2021   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  |  |    |
| <b>Junior &amp; Youth Football</b>  | Present - 31st May<br>1st June - 6th August<br>From 7th August                      | Friendly and some league competitive fixtures permitted.<br>Friendly fixtures permitted. No tournaments or festivals.<br>21/22 league seasons will be permitted to start.  |
| <b>Senior Football</b>  | 26th April - 30th June<br><br>From 1st July   | Friendly fixtures permitted to take place.<br><br>21/22 league season will be permitted to start.  |

The above is subject to the Welsh Government's COVID-19 guidelines prevailing at the relevant time.

The start of the 21/22 senior league season is specifically dependent on reaching Alert Level 2 of Welsh Government's Coronavirus Control Plan.





# **SW ALLIANCE LEAGUE - INFORMATION**

## **2021-22 SEASON**

**The SWAL AGM for the 2021-22 season is to be held over 2 separate meetings to enable the League to start in July.**

**The first part of the AGM is to be held on Wednesday 26 May 2021, which again this year due to covid restrictions will be conducted by Zoom meeting. This will allow the League to finalise any rule changes that will allow us to start the planning for football to start on Saturday 3 July. The second part of the AGM will be held in July to approve the league's final accounts for season 2020/2021 along with any other outstanding business from the May AGM.**

**Any clubs who still have yet to return their SWAL Club Information form and/or inform the League whether they are able to start in July or if their ground is available. Please do so by 24 May as we wish to publish provisional draft fixtures.**

**Clubs who are unable to play from 3 July to normal season start 7 August can ask for open dates but this will not count under Rule No: 5.2.1 - where clubs can request 2 free dates for League fixtures per season.**

**Remember the FAW Cup Qualifying Round 1 starts on Saturday 10 July and the FAW Amateur Trophy starts on Saturday 17 July.**

**The season's initial fixtures may be disjointed or have an initial imbalance with some clubs having an excess of home or away games - which is subject to grounds being available (for example the first 6 weeks) - but obviously it is important we get games played should there be another lockdown or restrictions later in the season. The last thing anyone wants is another final table based on average points per game!**

**All our efforts are now geared towards 2021-2022 season.**

## **COMET**

**Players, Coaches, Officials and Match Officials will have their COMET registrations carried forward into the 2021-22 season. At the time of this newsletter clubs and League Management Board members have still yet to be carried over - but I have informed this will also be the case.**

**By doing so it means that registered player etc will be covered by the FAW Insurance scheme and clubs can play these players in their friendlies.**

**However if a player wishes to change clubs or clubs wish to sign a new player then be aware that the transfer window closed in April and the 2021-22 transfer window does not open until 9 June.**

Basically to clarify new players can train (without the benefit of insurance cover) but for friendly matches they are specifically excluded under FAW regulations.

## PRE SEASON INTER-CLUB FRIENDLIES

Please keep sending me the scores and I will complete weekly round-ups. These will be emailed to clubs and available on the website both on the home page and under the Informations tab / Downloads - where there is also a lot more information available.

## NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION

I circulate this newsletter to clubs, LMB members and referees. If you know of anyone else who would like to be included then I am happy to add them to the distribution list.

## FUNDRAISING

The SW Management Board are looking at ways to fundraise both short term and long term and have reviewed options. Once decided we will inform everyone of how and if clubs or individuals can help or join in.

Additionally if anyone has any ideas or thoughts on fundraising matter please email Karin, the SWAL Finance Secretary, at [karinpreene@gmail.com](mailto:karinpreene@gmail.com)

## TIER 3 LICENCE APPLICATIONS

The following SWAL clubs have applied for Tier 3 status -

- Aberdare Town
- Baglan Dragons
- Bridgend Street
- Canton Liberal
- Cardiff Corinthians
- Pencoed BGC and
- Porthcawl Town Athletic

These applications have been rolled over to next season.



The FAW & SWAL urges everyone to follow the Welsh Government guidelines during the lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19.

[gov.wales/local-lockdown](http://gov.wales/local-lockdown)

[www.faw.cymru/en/covid-19/](http://www.faw.cymru/en/covid-19/)

**[At this present time it is important for everyone to stay safe!](#)**

*A LOOK BACK IN TIME - GROUNDHOP*

# *When The Seaside Came*

Sunday 29th August 2018 ko 2pm

**SOUTH WALES ALLIANCE - DIVISION ONE**

**PORTHCAWL TOWN**

(Davis 8; Crofts 17 & 90; Comley 90)



**4-0**



**CORNELLY UNITED**

Attendance 234

We'd got thoroughly soaked at Vale United, and there was little time between there and our middle game at Porthcawl to dry off. The coaches picked their way along Porthcawl seafront, and the rain lashed over the pier, arcades, and the beach. As the rivulets streamed down my coach's windscreen it seemed barely plausible that this could be during the height of the holiday season.

We headed a few hundred yards uphill and away from the front to a rain-lashed Locks Lane, or in groundhopping terms into a debate. The story goes thus. Have a look at the first photo, the one of the front of the clubhouse. Porthcawl played on a pitch to right of it during their Welsh League days. To the left is another pitch, that was used as one of three temporary grounds by Bridgend Town, after they left Coychurch Road in 2006.

Now these days Porthcawl play on the former Bridgend Town pitch, with their former pitch now given over exclusively to cricket. It does have the distinct advantage of being exclusively for football, but does have the distinct disadvantage of that "Arena" stand facing the sea. The wind and rain blew straight into the cover!

So some might take the view that since the clubhouse hasn't move that this isn't a ground move, while others would point to no pitch overlap as a means of treating it as two grounds. Me? It was my first visit to Locks Lane...

The aren't many advantages of the weather being awful if you're a host club, but the vast majority of your clientele making straight for the clubhouse is definitely one. In fact so packed was the place that since the club forgot to put a lineups board I ended up having time only to get that sorted out, or to eat. I'll claim I took one for the team, and let's face it, I'm unlikely to starve to death any time soon.

There was never likely to be a problem attracting a crowd, rain or not. Cornelly United represented a massive local derby, but even then the rain meant we got 120-or so less patrons than 2 years ago, and another sadness was that I didn't see Gareth, the hero then.

Fortunately the rain eventually abated, no bad thing as the wind was turning umbrellas inside-out, and those who taken too much of a soaking at Corntown ventured out of the clubhouse to watch.

Now dear reader I'm sure you'll look at the score and assume this was a straightforward home win, but I assure you it wasn't. What it was was a hotly contested game where Porthcawl took their chances and Cornelly didn't. The celebrations at the final whistle revealed just how important a game this was.



Still sodden hoppers headed back to the coaches, we'd seen two good host clubs, now we needed a good finale to the day to warm us up. It was time to head to Llangeinor.

For the full report & photos go to:

<https://laurencereade.com/2018/10/14/when-the-seaside-came/#more-34392>



If anyone has any suggestions for the Newsletter please let me know

#staysafe 🤝

Regards

*Terry*

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